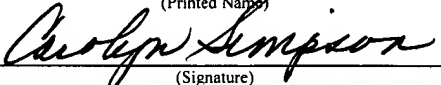


Atty. Dkt. No. 061300-0225

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Squires et al.
Title: CONTROL SYSTEM AND
METHOD FOR AN
EQUIPMENT SERVICE
VEHICLE
Appl. No.: 09/927,946
Filing Date: 08/10/2001
Examiner: Brian J. Broadhead
Art Unit: 3661

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
EV 505573928 US	3/25/05
(Express Mail Label Number)	(Date of Deposit)
Carolyn Simpson	
(Printed Name)	
	
(Signature)	

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner provided the following statement of reasons for allowance of claims 6-10, 23-28, 37-39 and 46-47.

The prior art of record does not disclose a plurality interface modules having a first data memory that stores the input status information for all the plurality of input devices; the plurality of interface modules collects input status information from the respective local subset of the plurality of input devices and broadcasts the input status information over the communication network to each of the remaining ones of the plurality of interface modules at least once during a predetermined amount of time.

While Applicants agree that the allowed claims recite a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the cited references, Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce to the reasons for allowance given by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the limitations of each claim when considered as a whole in view of the specification and Applicants' previous comments during prosecution render the claim patentable. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter recited in the claims is patentable for other

reasons than those provided by the Examiner. Applicants expressly reserve the right to set forth additional and/or alternative reasons for patentability in future applications and/or in other proceedings.

Applicants note that an initialed copy of PTO Form SB/08 filed on June 23, 2004 has not been provided pursuant to M.P.E.P § 609. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of this form.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

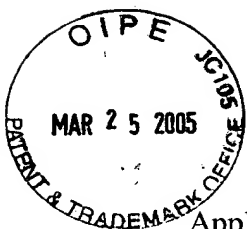
Respectfully submitted,

Date March 25, 2005

By Scott C. Nielson

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 26371
Telephone: (414) 297-5718
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

Scott C. Nielson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 50,755



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Carolyn Simpson	
(Printed Name)	
	
(Signature)	

COMMUNICATION REGARDING PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

In accordance with Applicants' duty of candor and good faith to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Applicants note that the 64 days of patent term adjustment as indicated on the Notice of Allowance mailed on January 21, 2005 for the above-captioned application may be incorrect depending upon how 37 C.F.R. § 1.704 is interpreted. It is hereby requested that the Patent Office verify the calculation of the Patent Term Adjustment for the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 25, 2005

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 26371
Telephone: (414) 297-5718
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

Scott C. Nielson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 50,755